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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,231	08/02/2003	Daniel D. Coppens	ANHOLT-9	2448
26939	7590	07/14/2005	EXAMINER	
HUNTLEY & ASSOCIATES 1105 NORTH MARKET STREET P.O. BOX 948 WILMINGTON, DE 19899-0948				SAFAVI, MICHAEL
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				3673

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/633,231	COPPENS ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
M. Safavi	3673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11, 13-36 and 38-47 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-11, 13-16, 20, 31, 32, 36, 38-40 and 47 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 17-19, 21-30, 33-35 and 41-46 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/03/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: .

Claims 1-11, 13-16, 20, 31, 32, 36, 38-40, and 47 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species of the invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on March 29, 2005.

Drawings

The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on September 30, 2004, has been disapproved. The proposed drawing correction to Fig. 9A appears to contain new matter with a particular showing of a head immobilizing board.

Applicant's remarks with respect to the proposed drawing are not convincing. The instant application merely presents "an immobilization accessory device" with no specific description as to the device or devices. Lines 5-14 on page 3 and lines 16-27 on page 6 of the instant application generally recite "patient positioning and immobilization devices" or "accessory devices" while original claim 6 merely recites "an accessory device".

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "at least one accessory device" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The indicated allowability of claims 17-30, 33-35, and 41-46 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 17, 18, 20-28, and 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oliver et al. '116. Oliver et al. '116 discloses, Figs. 1 and 2, a patient support device having at least one index positioning means 15 on a first side and at least one index positioning means 15 on a second side with the at least one index positioning means 15 on a first side being asymmetrically spaced from an at least one index positioning means 15 on the second side, (e.g., one upper index positioning means 15 on a first side is asymmetrically spaced from one lower, or offset, index positioning means 15 on a second side). The sidewalls can be seen as chamfered. An accessory device removably secured to the support is as shown in Fig. 4. An accessory device adaptor is at 20 with an attachment feature 30/40, (in the form of a clamp, cam lock, interference fit clip, pin, post and bar), on the first end of the adaptor for mateably joining the adaptor to the at least one positioning feature on the first side, an element 25 on the second end in contact with the second side of the patient support device, and an attachment means, (as can be seen in Fig. 4), for mateably joining and securing an accessory device to the accessory device adaptor.

Claims 17, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29, 30, and 33 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WIPO Publication WO 01/35828, (WIPO '828).

WIPO '828 discloses, Figs. 1 and 4, a patient support device having at least one index positioning means, (any portion or extent of the edge), on a first side and at least one index positioning means, (any portion or extent of the edge), on a second side with the at least one index positioning means on a first side being asymmetrically spaced from an at least one index positioning means on the second side, (e.g., one portion of the edge on a first side is asymmetrically spaced from one offset portion or extent on a second side). The sidewalls can be seen as chamfered with the top surface extending laterally beyond at least one sidewall to form a lip. As such, the indexing means is formed or "contained" in the lip. An accessory device removably secured to the support is at 18/20.

Claims 17, 21, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brooking '988. Brooking '988 discloses, Fig. 1, a patient support device having at least one index positioning means, (in the form of a notch slot, indentation, cutout, scallop, groove, hole, etc.), on a first side and at least one index positioning means on a second side with the at least one index positioning means on a first side being asymmetrically spaced from an at least one index positioning means 15 on the second side, (e.g., one upper index positioning means on a first side is asymmetrically spaced from one lower, or offset, index positioning means on a second side). The sidewalls can be seen as chamfered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17-19, 21-30, 33-35, and 41-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WIPO Publication WO 01/35828, (WIPO '828) in view of Oliver et al. '116. Arguments to each of WIPO '828 and Oliver et al. '116 can be found above.

To have provided the support table 10 with index positioning means along opposite edges thereof as well as provide for both an accessory attachment means and an accessory device, thus allowing for attachment of a patient restraint accessory in an indexing approach, would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made as taught by Oliver et al. '166. With such a modification a patient support device having at least one index positioning means 15 on a first side and at least one index positioning means 15 on a second side with the at least one index positioning means 15 on a first side being asymmetrically spaced from an at least one index positioning means 15 on the second side, (e.g., one upper index positioning means 15 on a first side is asymmetrically spaced from one lower, or offset, index positioning means 15 on a second side) would be realized.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Safavi whose telephone number is (571) 272-7046. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur., 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Shackelford can be reached on (571) 272-7049. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MICHAEL SAFAVI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 354

M. Safavi
June 13, 2005